

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 FLOREN 00238 161410Z

ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 CA-01 H-02

SSO-00 FSE-00 /030 W

-----042177 161413Z /41

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FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1989

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0238

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, IT

SUBJECT: BOLOGNA-FLORENCE EXPRESS TRAIN CRASH

1. DURING THE AFTERNOON APRIL 15 A NORTHBOUND TRAIN HIT A LANDSLIDE ALONG THE FLORENCE-BOLOGNA LINE AND WAS DERAILED ONTO THE PARALLEL TRACK FOR THE SOUTHBOUND BOLOGNA-FLORENCE EXPRESS WHICH SMASHED INTO THE DERAILED TRAIN ABOUT 1:45 PM. CONSULATE CHECKS WITH PRESS AND POLICE SOURCES INDICATE THAT MIRACULOUSLY NO AMERICANS ARE THUS FAR AMONG THE 41 KNOWN DEAD. EQUALLY REMARKED, SO FAR ONLY ONE AMERICAN HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AMONG THE INJURED, NAMELY RONALD MULLER, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY OF DALLAS, TEXAS. HE WAS DETAINED OVERNIGHT FOR OBSERVATION BUT HAD NO SIGNS OF INJURY BESIDES SHOCK. HIS WIFE, LUCIA AND YEAR-OLD SON, ADAM, ESCAPED APPARENTLY UNSCATHED.

2. POLICE HAVE PROMISED TO NOTIFY CONSULATE SHOULD ANY AMERICANS BE IDENTIFIED. THE SEARCH HAS NOT ENDED AND IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT MORE BODIES WILL BE FOUND. MANY AMERICANS RIDE THIS HEAVILY TRAVELLED LINE BESIDES THE MULLER FAMILY, FOUR WE KNOW OF, WHOM WE HELPED WITH EMERGENCY HOTEL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE, ESCAPED UNINJURED. THREE WERE USAF OFFICERS WHO HAVE CONTACTED THEIR BASE, AND ONE WAS YOUNG AMERICAN WOMAN WHO HAS CONTACTED HER PARENTS.

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3. LUGGAGE RECOVERED FROM THE WRECKAGE HAS BEEN TAKEN TO THE CASERMA SMERAGLIA IN BOLOGNA WHERE OWNERS MAY RECOVER IT BY SIMPLY IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD. CONSULATE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW-UP WITH THE POLICE AND RAILROAD AUTHORITIES FOR RELEVANT DETAILS AND REPORT THEM AS NECESSARY. GORDON

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NNN

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